

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

By F. A. TYLER.

Devoted to News, Politics, Scientific, Commercial, Agricultural and Miscellaneous Information.

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"Power is never conferred but for the sake of the public good."

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TIE REGISTER.

Printed and published every SATURDAY at THREE DOLLARS in advance. Subscribers who do not pay in advance, will invariably be charged four dollars.

Advertisements inserted for one dollar per square (of ten lines or less), for the first insertion, and fifty cents for each subsequent insertion.

Advertisements which exceed ten lines, charged at the rate of one dollar for the first, and five cents for each insertion afterwards.

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POSTAGE must be paid on all letters, or they will not be attended to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Rattlesnakes.

A physician, one of my intimate friends, passed a night in a state of great perplexity, of which the account may give the reader some idea. He had, like me, entertained the desire of observing the particular ways of these terrible reptiles, kept in a cage, and succeeded in furnishing himself with four of them of various sizes. For fear of some accident on account of the negligence of his negroes, he had placed the cage which enclosed them in a spacious room, which he made his bed-chamber. A negro was selected to feed and attend to them. It was my friend's custom, on his return home, to take a glance at his animals, to assure himself of their being properly fed, and their cage door being well shut. One night, having come home very late and tired, he neglected this precaution and went to bed. The weather was very hot, and notwithstanding his state of fatigue, several hours glided away without his obtaining any sleep. He suddenly heard a light, sliding noise on the floor along the wall of the apartment, which left off very soon, and he ceased to give any more attention to the circumstance. After some moments, the same noise revived, and he then cautiously looked out of bed to ascertain what might be the cause of it. The moonlight shining full into the room, he observed the largest of the snakes (he had 18 rattles) roaming free along the floor. I leave the reader to imagine what were his impressions at this unexpected sight! What was he to do in this case? A loaded gun was hanging at the extremity of the room. How to reach it was the question. Farther; was this animal the only one out of the cage, or were all the others, too at liberty? The whole of the servants were asleep. He resolved to wait for the morning; but first took the precaution of slowly and carefully drawing up his mosquito curtains around the bed; afterwards he sat down and patiently watched the issue. The animal continued to make some undulatory movements through the room; after which the doctor heard him approach the bed, and at last all became silent.

At daylight, he heard the steps of a servant who was coming according to his custom to perform his morning duty. The doctor cried out to him not to open the door, but to go for an old African negro, named Isaac, who was known to approach these reptiles without fear. The latter arrived, entered confidently, and saw the snake rolled up under the bed. The three others had remained in the cage, although the door was open—his first care was to shut it. My friend insisted on his shooting the snake. Isaac refused, and declared himself able to seize the animal, without the least fear of being bitten by him. In effect, he advanced to the bed, whistling softly with his lips, pronouncing some words in English in a distressing tone; and then, after some minutes, he ventured to pass his hand over the back of the snake, all the time trying to soothe him, he induced the animal to place himself on his arm and body. The snake let the negro carry him thus through the chamber, without betraying either flight, or any offensive emotion. The

Doctor asked Isaac to replace the reptile in his cage—"oh master, this is impossible," says he; if I attempt it, the snake would be angry and bite me—"look." Indeed, scarcely did Isaac stop and lean towards the cage, before the animal began to move briskly and sound the rattle.

Isaac immediately got up, began to gain his soothing caresses, and the animal fell calm. He then asked for a strong sheet; by degrees accustomed the snake to the view of this object, and then passed one end of the edges out between his arm and the animal's body, continuing his wheedling and walking about all the time. As soon as he was certain that he could in a moment, envelop the animal in the sheet, he rapidly threw it around him, and thus was the snake mastered. All that remained now to be done was to reinstate him in a cage; of which the door was very small comparatively with the mass which formed the animal so wrapped up. Isaac displayed the same dexterity in unrolling the sheet that he had done before in all his interesting manoeuvres. He succeeded by a series of quick and skillful movements, in getting him back to his old quarters, without receiving the slightest injury, shut the cage, and thus my friend's unpleasant affair terminated. The negro, however, said, if a similar affair happened again with the same snake, he could never venture to approach him for fear of being bitten, because he had in this manner deceived him.

These facts are of undoubted authenticity, since I had them from the mouth of my friend. But I confess that I do not know how to comprehend the perfect security of the old African and still less perhaps the sagacity which he attributed to the snake. To be able to establish the fact necessary to found any serious discussion on this subject, it would be necessary to try the same manoeuvres employed by the negro, to observe their effects, and afterwards attempt an explanation of them. This is a hazard which I certainly do not choose to risk.

There is an attribute peculiar to the hog, in relation to the rattlesnake, the mention of which, will not, I trust, prove entirely uninteresting to the reader. On his approach, the latter seems terrified and tries to escape. But the grunter pursues, seizes and devours him with the most absolute indifference of his rattle and his fangs. If it be a sow, accompanied by a litter of young ones, she even divides the prey amongst the little squeakers. It is also usual in certain localities where those reptiles abound to drive forward a hog fastened to a leash to remove them from the places to be visited. The doctor questioned the negro if he had something about him belonging to this animal, or other substance equally efficacious in intimidating or appeasing the snake. Isaac directly replied that he did not employ any other means than the caresses which he had witnessed.

I will close these remarks with the relation of another adventure, which threatened in its effects, perhaps, to be still more terrible. A hunter of my acquaintance, used to amuse himself whenever he met with some fine specimens of the rattlesnake with endeavoring to catch him. This he was enabled to do by means of a long stick cleft at the end, with which he was accustomed to seize him at the back of the head.

One day, as he was posted at some distance from his friends, watching for his game, (deer) he perceived one of these reptiles; he seized him in the above-mentioned manner, and then, after having firmly placed his fingers behind its head, he diverted himself by opening his mouth, in order to examine his teeth and fangs. In the mean time, the snake quite unobserved by my friend, who was entirely absorbed in his inspection of the creature's head, had twisted his body in numerous folds round his arm. Little by little he was conscious of a slight pressure, accompanied by an alarming numbness in this member. He immediately endeavored to disengage his arm, but at the same time the pressure and numbness kept augmenting—he by degrees felt with horror that his fingers were losing all power of retaining their hold. At last the head of the animal began to slip away, gradually drawing near the palm of his hand, and the thoughtless hunter had just made up

his mind to the horrible consequences of his imprudence when his companion at the next post, alarmed by his cries for help, most opportunely arrived, hastily pulling out a little bottle of ammonia, and uncorking it, poured its contents into the rattlesnake's mouth. Suddenly this frightful scene was completely changed; the animal unrolled himself fell to the ground and was killed.

I will just mention, *en passant*, for the information of the uninitiated, that some hunters in these regions are accustomed to carry with them a bottle of this alkali, to provide against the chance of their dogs being bitten by the snakes.

Southern Sportsman.

Public Meeting.

We have received from Grenada, the following proceedings of a public meeting held in that place on the 12th inst. The sentences in the address, *inclosed in brackets*, were not adopted by a majority of votes. That the charge they contain is true we cannot say, though we have heard it strongly hinted. If it is true let us have the proof.

We would respectfully suggest the query whether the second week in October is not too late for the proposed Convention.

At a meeting of the Whigs of Grenada, Mt., and vicinity, held on Saturday, 12th August, 1843; on motion J. J. Choate, Sr. was called to the chair and D. P. Phillips was appointed Secretary.

On motion of A. C. Baine, Esq., a committee of five was appointed to draft an address and resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. Whereupon he chairman appointed A. C. Baine, Col. N. Howard, G. W. McNamara, J. C. Abbott, and J. S. Read, Esq., who having retired for a few minutes, returned and reported the following Address and Resolutions which were adopted by the meeting, except the portion in brackets which was stricken out in the meeting:

ADDRESS.

Fellow-Citizens of Mississippi.—The regular biennial election of our State is rapidly approaching, and it behooves the Whigs to arise from the lethargy and stupor under which they seem to lay—a lethargy and stupor induced in part by the fatal advice of friends, who have always assumed to lead wherever virtue, liberty and duty called, and from whom therefore, we expected better things.—We look upon the neglect of the Whigs to nominate candidates for Congress as next to suicidal. It is not only wrong; but a wrong that will be ruinous in its results. It will place both branches of the Democratic party in front of the public; in the foreground of the peoples observation; and give to their dangerous principles a wide and unresisted influence upon the public mind; and what is more sickening still to the patriot, will place the great Whig party—the stern advocates and bold defenders of the Rights of man ever since the American Revolution—in the miserable attitude of mere hangers-on to one of the fractions of this destructive party. Why should we assume so degrading a position before our countrymen? Is it a time now, after having battled against the *One Man Power*, and the other principles of this party from '76, until '43, to basely surrender up the rich inheritance of governing ourselves? And to whom and for what are we without a struggle to surrender the priceless estate? To a branch of a party that hold that one man is more capable of governing an intelligent people, than they are of governing themselves by their own Representatives—or in other words, that there is no safety for our liberties unless one man—the President—have the power to prevent the People from executing their own will. To a party who venerate the Veto, as the great conservative principle in our Constitution. To a party claiming to be State Rights men, with "Democracy scorns the broad seal of New Jersey," inscribed in mockery of State Sovereignty, on their party banner. To a party, who denounced our earnest struggles, against their successful efforts to establish the State Bank system, as mere panic-making, and our selves as "Panic-makers," a system that has not only ruined the prosperity, but entirely sapped the morals of our country. To a party, who under the delusive name of Free Trade, are now fast foisting upon us a new and galling vassalage to British policy and British interests. To a party, who supported

for President, in 1840, a man who recommended to the *especial attention* of Congress, the Army Bill, providing for a *Standing Army* of two hundred thousand men. To a party, who then supported a man, more extravagant and profligate in his Administration, than any head of our Government, save the contemptible administration now perpetuating his policy by means of the same time-serving instruments. To a party, who now confess they abandoned the honor and interests of their country in 1841, by voting the *Reputation Ticket*; and who will again abandon it, if they cannot subvert the Whigs to forego all claim to any concern in the administration of the affairs of their government. [To a party who on the 10th July last deliberately, in a Party Convention, proposed, by way of bargain to the Anti-Bonders, to give them all the Federal officers within the gift of the People of this State, for the consideration that the office of Governor was yielded to them.] To a party, professing to condemn and despise *Reputation*, as a doctrine, unmitigated and unpalliated in the enormity of its turpitude, that have not the liberality or patriotism to yield a decent courtesy to their brethren, the Whigs. To a party, thus acting, [thus offering by open trade, all the offices of the country, for the poor boon of Governor,] while they come to us, crying, not only give, give, but actually taking all the offices of the State and Federal Government within our gift, we cannot in honor, tamely submit, and lick the hand that smites, and robs, and insults.

It were a more gentlemanly propriety: the nakedest courtesy in all the domains of decency, coming, as they did, fresh from the hot bed and fumes of *Reputation*, to have yielded, not tendered us, one half at least of the representation in Congress, or else the office of Governor. But this is not the stuff they are made of; for while with repudiators, they would make any barter for the sake of the Party, with us, no prejudice, however slight, is yielded for honor of our common country. Distrust, contempt, and traduction are all we receive at their hands. Shall we receive in silence, and reward them for it?—Forbid it honor—forbid it Patriotism!—These being our views, spoken for ourselves, we Resolve, 1st. That it is the duty of each District in the State, dividing it in accordance with the late bill of the Senate for that purpose, to nominate a candidate for Congress, and send him into the field to battle for the rights of the people.

2. Resolved, That we will keep the name of Gen. A. B. Bradford, of Marshall county, before the people for that purpose until a general and full District Convention shall order to the contrary.

3. Resolved, That it is expedient to hold a WHIG MASS CONVENTION, at some central point in this District, on the second week in October next.

Resolved, That these proceedings be signed by the Chairman and Secretary and published in the Whig papers of the State.

J. J. CHOATE, Sr. Ch'n.
D. P. PHILLIPS, Sec'y.

Gen. Lafayette and Henry Clay.

We have just come in possession of an anecdote in a manner which enables us to say that it is perfectly authentic.—An officer of the United States Navy, being in the city of Paris in the fall of 1832, was invited by Gen. Lafayette to visit him at Lagrange, his country seat. The invitation was accepted, and the officer of course enjoyed in the highest degree the elegant and hearty hospitality which the noble old veteran always displayed to Americans. During the three days which the American naval officer spent at Lagrange, much conversation was had on the affairs and the prominent men of the United States.—Of such topics the name of Henry Clay could not be but a conspicuous one; and the General found that his guest was not only a political admirer but a personal acquaintance and friend of that great American Statesman. The General, therefore, was not constrained, as the sequel will show, by the delicacy due to the feelings of one of whose sentiments he was ignorant, to conceal his own sincere sentiments of Mr. Clay.—The American officer set out at four or five in the morning in a diligence for Paris. Not expecting to find the old war worn soldier stirring at so early an hour, he

was leaving without a formal farewell. As he was crossing the court, however, George Washington Lafayette, the son of the General, followed him and told him his father desired to see him. He was introduced into the General's study, where, by the light of candles, he was employing his pen. Pressing his guest in vain to remain longer, the General said: "Before you leave me, I want to show you our friend;" and leading into another room, he exhibited a portrait of Mr. Clay. "Sir," said the General, "That is the man whom I hope to see President of the United States." The incident was a happy one, and produced a lasting impression on the mind of the officer. The bosom companion of Washington, his comrade in arms in the glorious Revolution, feeling the deepest interest in the welfare of the U. States, and well acquainted with their policy, their institutions and their great men, Lafayette, with the wisdom of the Father of his Country, pointed out the man fit and worthy to stand at the head of his Government. But his sainted spirit will look down in '45 and rejoice in the consummation of his hopes, which Heaven impatient to claim one of its first-born, denied him while in the flesh.—Frankfort Commonwealth.

The State Debts.

The Baltimore American gives a general view of the Debts of the several States, which we condense as follows:

States which owe no debt.	
States.	Population.
New Hampshire,	284,574
Rhode Island,	108,830
Connecticut,	309,978
Vermont,	291,948
New Jersey,	373,806
Delaware,	78,085
North Carolina,	753,419
Iowa Territory,	43,112
Wisconsin do,	30,945
Total,	2,274,197

States which owe, pay their interest regularly, and their debts when due.

States.	Population.
Maine,	501,793
Massachusetts,	737,099
New York,	2,426,921
Virginia,	1,239,797
South Carolina,	594,398
Georgia,	691,392
Alabama,	590,756
Kentucky,	779,828
Tennessee,	829,210
Ohio,	1,519,467
Missouri,	383,702
Columbia Dis. of	43,702
Total,	10,340,666

States which owe, do not formally repudiate, yet fail to pay their interest.

States.	Population.
Pennsylvania,	1,721,033
Maryland,	469,232
Louisiana,	352,411
Indiana,	688,866
Illinois,	476,183
Arkansas,	97,574
Total,	3,805,299

States which owe and swindle manfully.

States.	Population.
Mississippi,	375,651
Michigan,	212,627
Florida Territory,	54,477
Total, Repudiating,	642,395

Total Population of the United States, 17,062,556.

Thus of our Seventeen Millions of People, less than One Million are openly and less than Four Millions more virtually tainted with the horrible guilt and blasting dishonor of *Reputation*.—Over twelve millions and a half pay every cent promptly. Of the residue, Mississippi repudiates \$5,000,000, and Michigan \$2,200,000 on frivolous pretexts, and Florida \$3,000,000 without any pretext. The States which practically repudiate by failing to provide the means of payment owe about \$100,000,000 of which we think the greater part will ultimately be paid, but not before a loss of at least Fifty Millions will have accrued to innocent holders of the Stocks, who will be driven by necessity or apprehension to part with their securities (as the facetious term is) at ruinous rates. Every one of these has a just and equitable claim on the State issuing his Stocks for the full amount of such loss. But there is no hope that it will be paid.—N. Y. Tribune.

A Remarkable Rose Bush.

There is, in the garden of Mr. Lewis at Hoboken, New York, a rose tree which bears pure white and pink flowers on alternate branches, the colors being distinct on their respective branches, and not the least blended one with ano-

ther. It is quite different from the Greville, which bears white and purple flowers and every intermediate shade and tint. What makes the tree remarkable is, that the flowers are natural, having been produced without inoculation or grafting, and entirely of spontaneous growth. At Niblo's garden, there are rose trees seemingly the same, but being so only in appearance, as the colors are acknowledged to have been produced by inoculation.—Boston Trans.

John Randolph.

I remember some years since to have seen John Randolph in Baltimore. I had frequently read and heard descriptions of him, and one day, as I was standing in Market, now Baltimore street, I remarked a tall, thin, unique looking being hurrying toward me with a quick impatient step, evidently much annoyed by a crowd of boys who were following close to his heels, not in the obstreperous mirth with which they would have followed a crazy or drunken man or an organ grinder and his monkey, but in the silent, curious wonder with which they have haunted a Chinese bedecked in full costume. I instantly knew the individual to be Randolph from the descriptions. I therefore advanced toward that I might make a full observation of his person without violating the rules of courtesy in stopping to gaze at him. As he approached, he occasionally turned toward the boys with an angry glance, but without saying anything, and then hurried on as if to outstrip them; but it would not do. They followed close on behind the orator, each one said nothing to his companions. Just before I met him he stopped a Mr. C., a cashier of one of the banks, said to be as odd a fish as John himself. I loitered in a store close by, unnoticed, remarked the Roanoke orator for a considerable time, and really he was the strangest looking being I ever beheld.

His long thin legs, about as thick as a strong walking cane, and of much such a shape, were encased in a pair of tight small clothes, so tight that they seemed part and parcel of the limbs of the wearer. Handsome white stockings were fastened with great tidiness at the knees by a small gold buckle, and over them, a pair of white hose, which were called hose, and country knit. He wore shoes. They were old-fashioned and fastened only with buckles, huge ones. He trod like an Indian, without turning his toes out, but plunking them down straight ahead. It was the fashion in those days to wear a fan-tailed coat with a small collar and buttons far apart behind, and a few on the breast. Mr. Randolph's were the reverse of all this, and instead of his coat being fan-tailed, it was what we believe the knights of the needle call swallow tailed; the collar was immensely large; the buttons behind were in kissing proximity, and they sat together as close on the breast as the feathers at crowded public festival. His waist was remarkably slender—so slender that, as he stood with his arms akimbo he could easily, as I thought with his long bony fingers, have spanned it. Around him his coat, which was very tight, was held together by one button, and in consequence, an inch or more of tape to which it was attached was perceptible where it was pulled through the cloth. About his neck he wore a large white cravat, in which his chin was occasionally buried as he moved his head in conversation: no shirt collar was perceptible; every other person seemed to pride himself upon the size of his, as they were worn large. Mr. Randolph's complexion was precisely that of a mummy, withered, saffron, dry and bloodless; you could not have placed a pin's point upon his face where you would not have touched a wrinkle. His lips were thin, compressed and colorless; the chin, beardless as a boy's, was broad for the size of his face, which was small; his nose was straight, with nothing remarkable in it, except it was too short. He wore a fur cap, which he took off, standing a few minutes uncovered.—I observed that his head was quite small, a characteristic which is said to have marked many men of talent.—Byron and Chief Justice Marshall, for instance.

A Wyandot Squaw, 112 years old, died at Cincinnati, on the 19th of July.

Walworth county, Wisconsin is stated in a letter to the Southport Telegraph to have 20,000 acres in wheat, which will yield at least 20 bushels to the acre, or \$400,000. The yield will be very large.

President Quincy of Harvard College has thought proper to contradict the ridiculous rumor, started by the N. Y. Sun, that John Tyler received the degree of L. D. from that institution during his recent visit to Boston.—N. Y. Tribune.

Youth is the time to make money; old age the time to spend it.